

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-8. (Cancel)

9. (Currently amended) The folder of ~~claim 1~~ claim 24, wherein a first distance between the infeed ~~rollers~~ roller and the cutting cylinders, and a second distance between the cutting cylinders and the diverter mechanism are substantially fixed, regardless of the motor speeds.

10-12. (Cancel)

13. (Currently amended) The folder of ~~claim 12~~ claim 24, wherein the ~~diverting assembly~~ diverter mechanism includes a diverter wedge.

14. (Currently amended) The folder of claim 13, wherein the ~~diverting assembly~~ diverter mechanism includes a diverter nip, and wherein the diverter nip moves with respect to the diverter wedge to guide printed products toward opposite sides of the diverter wedge.

15. (Currently amended) The folder of ~~claim 12~~ claim 24, further comprising an infeed section including guide rollers that guide the web toward the cutting ~~section~~ cylinders.

16. (Original) The folder of claim 15, further comprising an infeed motor operable to drive the guide rollers.

17-23. (Cancel)

24. (Previously presented) A folder for a printing press, the folder operable to cut a web into individual printed products, the folder comprising:

- at least one infeed roller;
- a first motor operable to drive the at least one infeed roller at a first speed;
- a pair of cutting cylinders positioned downstream of the infeed roller;
- a second motor operable to drive the cutting cylinders at a second speed that is independently variable from the first speed;
- a diverter mechanism positioned downstream of the cutting cylinders;
- a third motor operable to drive the diverter mechanism at a third speed that is independently variable from the first and second speeds;
- first and second delivery belts supported by the frame and circulating in endless loops, the delivery belts lying in substantially face to face relation between the cutting cylinders and the diverter mechanism;
- a fourth motor operable to drive the first delivery belt at a fourth speed that is independently variable from the first, second, and third, speeds;
- a fifth motor operable to drive the second delivery belt at a fifth speed that is independently variable from the first, second, third, and fourth speeds;
- a first slow-down mechanism positioned along a first collation path and independently driven by a sixth motor;
- a second slow-down mechanism positioned along a second collation path and independently driven by a seventh motor;
- a first delivery bucket positioned downstream of the first slow-down mechanism and independently driven by an eighth motor; and,
- a second delivery bucket positioned downstream of the second slow-down mechanism and independently driven by a ninth motor.

25. (Previously presented) The folder of claim 24, wherein the fourth and fifth speeds are substantially equal and are variable with respect to the first, second, and third speeds to change a gap between cut printed products carried between the first and second delivery belts.

26. (Previously presented) The folder of claim 24, further comprising first and second collator belts circulating in endless loops, the first collator belt lying in substantially face to face relation with the first delivery belt to define the first collation path, and the second collator belt lying in substantially face to face relation with the second delivery belt to define the second collation path, wherein the first collator belt is driven by the fourth motor and the second collator belt is driven by the fifth motor.

27. (Original) The folder of claim 26, wherein the third speed is adjustable to zero to thereby divert signatures toward only one of the first and second collation paths.

28. (Original) The folder of claim 24, wherein the second speed is variable with respect to the first speed to adjust a cut length of each printed product.

29. (Original) The folder of claim 24, further comprising a control system communicating with each motor and operable to vary each speed.

30. (Previously presented) The folder of claim 24, further comprising a first printed product sensor positioned between the cutting cylinders and the diverter mechanism and operable to sense a relative position of sequential printed products traveling through the folder, and wherein the third speed is changed in response to the relative position of sequential printed products sensed by the first sensor.

31. (Previously presented) The folder of claim 30, further comprising a second printed product sensor positioned between the diverter mechanism and the first slow-down mechanism and operable to sense a relative position of sequential printed products traveling along the first collation path, and a third printed product sensor positioned between the diverter mechanism and the second slow-down mechanism and operable to sense a relative position of sequential printed products traveling along the second collation path, and wherein the sixth and seventh motors operate in response to the relative positions of sequential printed products sensed by the second and third sensors respectively.

32-36. (Cancel)